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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,954	07/27/2000	Frederick W. Ryan JR.	F-173	9430

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EXAMINER

WOO, RICHARD SUKYOON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,954

Applicant(s)

RYAN, FREDERICK W.

Examiner

Richard Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 28-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 28-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

- 1) Applicant's arguments, filed 08-29-03, with respect to rejections under 103 as being obvious by Stier et al. and Fredman have been fully considered and are persuasive. The previous rejections have been withdrawn.
- 2) The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 3) Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pintsov et al. (US 5,612,889).

W.R.T. Claim 19:

Pintsov et al. discloses a mail piece comprising:

a registration ID number (306) printed there on (see Figs. 6, 10) and wherein the registration ID number is associated with a mail campaign sender (ID number 202; see Figs. 1-2), a previously defined delivery address (see Figs. 2-3) and a particular mail campaign.

W.R.T. Claim 20:

Pintsov et al. further discloses the mail piece, wherein the previously defined delivery address is also printed thereon (see Figs. 6, 10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3) Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-11, 15, 28, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stier et al. (US 6,428,219) in view of Pintsov et al..

W.R.T. Claims 1, 4 and 9:

Stier et al. discloses a method of operating a data center (128) for generating postage indicium information for use with printing a postage indicium on a business reply mail piece (col. 6, lines 26-67; for the mail campaign sender), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving postage indicium information at the postage metering system from the data center (128; see Fig. 10);

printing the postage indicium on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system (122, 124) using the postage indicium information; and

printing the delivery address on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system (see Figs. 5-9).

However, Stier et al. does not specifically disclose the method comprising:

generating and transmitting a registration ID number, which is corresponding to the delivery address previously defined by the mail campaign sender, to the data center; and

generating the postage indicium information using the registration ID number and including data relating the delivery address.

Pintsov et al. teaches, for a mail processing system and method , that the method comprising:

generating and transmitting a registration ID number, which is corresponding to the delivery address previously defined by the mail campaign sender, to the data center (ID number 202; see Figs. 1-2).

Since Pintsov et al. and Stier et al. are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose taught by Pintsov et al. would have been well recognized in the pertinent field of Stier et al.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to generate and utilize a registration ID number, which is associated with the delivery address previously defined by the sender, and further generate the postage indicium information using the registration ID number, as taught by Pintsov et al., for the purpose of provide protection against intercept of transmitted mailing lists, identification numbers and other data communicated between the campaign sender and data center (or other party).

W.R.T. Claim 15:

Stier et al., as modified by Pintsov et al., further discloses a memory device accessible by a computer system, which enables the method Claims as recited above.

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W.R.T. Claims 2, 5, 10, 11, 28, 34, 36:

The modified method of Stier et al. further comprises:

printing the delivery address on the mail piece at the postage metering system, wherein the data center stores the previously defined address (see Fig. 7 in Pintsov et al.); and

performing address hygiene on the delivery address; and transmitting a hygiened addressed to the sender (see Fig. 7 in Pintsov et al.).

4) Claims 3, 6, 12, 16, 22, 25, 30-31, 39-40 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stier et al. (US 6,428,219) and Pintsov et al. as applied to Claims above, and further in view of Fredman (US 6,526,393).

The modified Stier et al. discloses the invention as recited above but does not disclose the method including:

receiving a subsidy provided by the data center to the user of the postage metering system for mailing the business reply mail piece; and

providing a notification to the mail campaign sender when the business reply mail piece is posted by the user.

Freedman teaches, for method of mailing or shipping goods using a registration ID number, that the method comprises:

receiving a subsidy provided by the data center to the shipper or user of the postage metering system for mailing the goods; and

providing a notification to the merchant when the mails or goods are posted by the user (when the barcode or ID numbers of the mails or goods are processed and read by reader, the merchant must receive the notification whether the mailpieces or goods are posted).

Since Fredman and Stier et al. are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Fredman would have been well recognized in the pertinent art of Stier et al.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art, to modify the method of operating a postage metering system such that the user receives a subsidy provided by the data center for mailing the business reply mail piece, as taught by Fredman, for the purpose of improving customer response time, company cash flow and the general likelihood of a recipient's response.

5) Claims 7-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21, 23-24, 26, 32-33, 35, 37-38, 41 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stier et al., Pintsov et al. and Fredman as applied to claims above, and further in view of Allott, III (US 6,121,565).

The modified Stier et al. discloses the method and device as recited above, but does not expressly disclose the invention further comprising:

receiving the subsidy when the business reply mail piece is posted within a specified time period defined by the mail campaign sender; and

providing a warning to for attempting to reply after the expiration date.

Allott, III teaches, for a method of delivery a business reply mail piece using expiring indicia, that the method comprises:

providing a subsidy for mailing the business reply mail piece when the business reply mail piece is posted within a specified time period (see Figs. and summary of the invention);

receiving an expiration date from the mail campaign sender; and

providing a warning to for attempting to reply after the expiration date.

Since Allott and the modified system and method of Stier et al. are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Allott would have been well recognized in the pertinent art of the modified Stier et al..

Accordingly, it would have been further obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art, to utilize the delivery system using expiring indicia with a manifested time in the modified mail delivery system of Stier et al., as taught by Allott, for the purpose of providing extremely effective method of decreasing the time between billing and remittance by positively reinforcing early return of business reply mail piece.

Conclusion

7) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-

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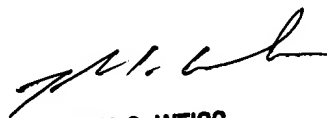
7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
GAU 3629
October 31, 2003



JOHN G. WEISS
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